THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Revital is manufatured and sold by M/s Ranbaxy as a food supplement under the Prevention of food Adulteration (P.F.A.) Rules, 1955 and not under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

Use of bio-fertilizers

2386. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of bio-fertilizers, biomanure, micronutrients as a supplement to chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP & ARD) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a)The Government promotes the soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with biofertilizers and organic manures as integrated nutrient management for maintaining soil health and productivity.

(b) The Government decided on 05.9.2002 to close down Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) including its Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division as it was not found to be techno-economically viable. However, the Namrup units have been demerged from HFC and have been incorporated into a separate entity *viz* Brahamputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002.

Changes in Fertilizer Pricing

2387. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved pricing for fertilizer industry with retrospective effect, from July 1,1997;

(b) if so, whether such changes in basic parameters would adversely affect viability of a number of fertilizer companies, due to huge recovery